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While I tend to agree with most of the sentiments expressed by the various stakeholders, I disagree with the views of ECSA. That they are now deciding to conduct investigation is reactive and an indictment of their role. It is for that reason that the new CBE is necessary to ensure, for example, that in all education programs that prepare construction consulting professionals not only engineers include major modules on the management of construction H&S. It is noteworthy that most of the fatalities in the industry have involved some form of structural collapse - clearly something that suggests that ECSA is not doing its job despite all its protestations to the contrary. It is time that someone at the highest level takes executive action to sort the problems of the industry out - and Ministerial is the highest level. It is also true that government initiatives to redress the inequalities of the past have had unintended consequences - such as producing "layers of bricks" rather than "bricklayers." CETA has failed dismally. I am unaware of any studies that have shown though that smaller contractors were more likely to have accidents than larger ones. There is a correlation between the size of a company and its ability to resource for improved H&S performance. There is no correlation with its ability to prevent accidents. There is clearly a role for the DoL, CIDB and CBE to positively as a collective to influence the H&S performance of the industry.

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